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Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

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Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee on its second session

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I. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

1. The second substantive session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 4 to 8 April 2011. The session was opened by Jarmo Viinanen (Finland), Chair of the Committee.

2. The Chief of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, Timur Alasaniya, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

3. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.219/IPC/INF/2/Rev.1.

B. Officers

4. The officers of the Preparatory Committee were as follows:

Chair:

Mr. Jarmo Viinanen (Finland)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Gary Francis Quinlan (Australia);
Mr. Abdulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh);
Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic);
Mr. Aman Hassen Bame (Ethiopia);
Mr. Léo Mérorès (Haiti);
Ms. Lilla Makkay, Director, International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hungary);
Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India);
Mr. Brian G. Bowler (Malawi);
Mr. Andrej Logar, Ambassador, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Slovenia)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin)

Ex officio:

Turkey (host country of the Conference) and members of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries, namely Benin, Nepal, Solomon Islands and the Sudan.

II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda and organization of work as follows (see A/CONF.219/IPC/7):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

3. Substantive preparations for the Conference.

4. Approval of the draft outcome document for submission to the Conference.

5. Organizational preparations for the Conference:

(a) Approval of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference;

(b) Approval of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

III. Substantive preparations for the Conference

6. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee considered the substantive preparations for the Conference. In that regard, it heard a presentation by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Other presentations were made by Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, speaking in his capacity as the representative of the host country of the Conference; Anda Filip, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations, on the parliamentary track of the Conference and preparatory process; Arjun Karki, Chair of the Civil Society Organization Steering Committee, on the civil society track; Gavin Power, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office, on the private sector track; and Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries (see paras. 20-51).

7. For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on its first session (A/CONF.219/IPC/6);

(b) Summary of outcome documents of pre-Conference events (A/CONF.219/IPC/10);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/66/66-E/2011/78);

(d) Background documents:

(i) Summaries and synthesis of national reports on the review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[1]

(ii) Pre-Conference events organized in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (issue two);

(iii) *The Least Developed Countries Report 2010* (UNCTAD/LDC/2010).[2]

8. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee held a general debate on the substantive preparations for the Conference, including its outcome.

9. In the course of the general debate, the Committee heard 16 statements: 14 by Member States and 2 by intergovernmental organizations. The statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Canada (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Paraguay (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), Maldives, China, South Africa, Lesotho, Pakistan, Brazil, Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Korea (see paras. 30-43).

10. On behalf of international agencies and civil society, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Common Fund for Commodities (see paras. 44-45).

11. From 4 to 8 April, the Committee held five informal meetings, during which it deliberated on the outcome of the Conference. For its deliberations, the Committee had before it a draft outcome document (A/CONF.219/IPC/CRP.1 and A/CONF.219/IPC/CRP.2) that had been the subject of negotiations among stakeholders during the intersessional period.

12. At the 4th informal meeting, on 6 April, the representative of Turkey (on behalf of the host country) briefed the Committee on logistical arrangements for participation in the Conference.

13. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 April, the Preparatory Committee considered agenda items 4 and 5, including both sub-items.

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[1] National reports were submitted by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia (also available at: www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/lang/en/pid/11422).

[2] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *The Least Developed Countries Report 2010: Towards a New International Development Architecture for LDCs* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.D.5).

IV. Action by the Preparatory Committee

A. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

14. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report on its second session (A/CONF.219/IPC/L.3) and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it in the light of the proceedings of the Committee.

B. Decisions of the Preparatory Committee

15. At the same meeting, on 8 April, the Preparatory Committee took the following decisions:

Decision I
Draft outcome document of the Conference

16. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the Chair continue informal consultations among Member States on the draft outcome document, with a view to finalizing it before the Conference.

Decision II
Draft provisional agenda of the Conference

17. The Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional annotated agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.219/IPC/8) as orally amended, and recommended it for adoption by the Conference.

Decision III
Draft rules of procedure for the Conference

18. The Preparatory Committee approved the draft rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.219/IPC/L.2) and recommended them for adoption by the Conference.

Decision IV
Election of officers of the Conference

19. The decision read as follows:

> Recognizing that effective least developed country participation in the Istanbul Conference is essential, the Preparatory Committee encourages regional groups to nominate among 15 Vice-Presidents of the Conference, as envisaged in rule 6 (b), States that are members of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries.
>
> The Preparatory Committee also recommends to the Conference, without prejudice to further decisions and without creating a precedent, to elect to the Bureau as ex officio members, those States members of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries which are not nominated by their respective regional groups.

V. Statements

20. **The Chair of the second session** applauded the decision of the General Assembly to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011. He stated that the Conference offered an opportunity to deepen the discussions and the review of the Brussels Programme of Action with respect to domestic and international reaffirmation of global support to assist the least developed countries. He noted that the first meeting of the International Preparatory Committee, held in January 2011, focused on the negotiations of the Conference outcome to reach agreement, and he expressed his appreciation for the achievement as well as the negotiations. He stressed the need to have a draft outcome document that was acceptable to all. It was an historic opportunity that united the global community to review and to ensure a successful conference, which was only one month away. Owing to the limited time, emphasis should be placed on issues that have high value added to the Istanbul programme of action and, at the same time, on identifying the responsibility and the roles of the various members of the global community. He expressed the hope that the discussions would be constructive and that the meeting would be a productive one towards a substantive preparation for the Conference.

21. **The Secretary-General of the Conference** commended the leaders of the least developed countries and their development partners in the various negotiations that had been held since January and called upon them to show flexibility to conclude the negotiations on substantive issues by the end of the meeting. He noted that in order to engage Member States and international organizations in substantive discussions on priority areas for the development of the least developed countries, a series of almost 20 pre-Conference meetings had been completed. In addition, a number of other events relating to least developed countries had been organized by the President of the General Assembly, France and Maldives. He stated that the United Nations Secretary-General had appointed a Group of Eminent Persons in August 2010 to examine obstacles faced by least developed countries to their economic progress. The Group had issued a report on its findings, which contained recommendations regarding a new development paradigm for transforming those countries. The report of the Secretary-General on the 10-year appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action had also been published. He highlighted a few recommendations in these reports and indicated that economic and social development in least developed countries had been better during the implementation period of the Brussels Programme than in the previous decade, especially with respect to economic growth, with notable successes in improvement in human development, and progress in education and infrastructure development in several countries. However, least developed countries were still lagging behind with respect to reaching the Millennium Development Goals and economic growth had not been sufficiently translated into poverty reduction. There were large differences among individual least developed countries with respect to reaching the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action. In addition, the multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as increased food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices, a global financial crisis, and the effects of climate change, had continued to have a severe impact on development. In the light of that, he noted that business as usual would not do and that the specific challenges faced by least developed countries needed to be addressed in a new programme of action. The report of the Group of Eminent Persons highlighted that clear, quantifiable targets

and the differentiation of responsibilities that were part of the approach of the Brussels Programme of Action should be preserved.

22. The Istanbul programme of action would determine the development paradigm for years to come. Though progress had been made in the negotiations over the previous three months, but with only one more month left, the process needed to be accelerated and efforts made to overcome some differences. He urged all delegations to redouble their efforts and demonstrate as much flexibility and solidarity as needed to agree on a renewed partnership that went beyond the Brussels Programme of Action with real value added for least developed countries. He appreciated the engagement of the Chair of the Preparatory Committee in steering the negotiation process. He thanked the host country, Turkey, for its political leadership and full engagement in the preparatory process both substantively and logistically, including its generous financial support. He provided an overview of the structure of the Conference and concluded by strongly urging all Member States to attend the Conference to be held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011, at the highest possible level as a gesture of support and solidarity for the least developed countries

23. The representative of **Turkey**, the host country of the Conference, expressed his appreciation, on the occasion of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, to the Member States, the agencies of the United Nations system and the Secretary-General of the Fourth Conference and his team for their hard work for the ongoing preparatory process. Since time was running short, there was a need to move in a more pragmatic manner during the remaining part of the preparatory process. He requested all Member States to continue to engage in a constructive and flexible manner in the period ahead in order to complete the work. There was a need for consensus to achieve a meaningful and contemporary outcome that would reflect a forward-looking vision for a renewed global partnership in the next 10 years and that would effectively respond to the many challenges of the least developed countries. He highlighted some key issues that he believed the Conference in Turkey would offer as value added for the least developed countries: the development of productive capacities was one of the key objectives of the Fourth Conference. In that regard, investments were critical, especially in infrastructure and productive sectors; he stressed the importance of official development assistance (ODA) in terms of quantity, quality and predictability; the role of the private sector, of small and medium-size enterprises in particular, could not be emphasized enough in efforts towards strengthening productive capacities, diversifying economies and building infrastructure. Public-private partnerships needed to be utilized in order to strengthen the engagement of the private sector in areas such as education and health. As trade was an important engine of economic growth for the least developed countries, there was a need for substantial commitments on duty-free quota-free access for all least developed country products to facilitate market access through simplified rules of origin. Science and technology was a crucial area of partnership, not only between Governments, but also involving other stakeholders, such as scientific and research institutions, as well as universities. In the light of the vulnerabilities of least developed countries to natural disasters, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction must also receive particular attention. Enhancing the access of women and girls to education and health services, supporting women's employment and their effective participation in decision-making processes at the local and national levels were important in terms of their

empowerment. Finally, Parliaments were key players in the design, implementation and review of national policies and programmes and international commitments.

24. He underscored the crucial importance of the Istanbul programme of action in setting out a systematic and effective monitoring and review mechanism. That was necessary in order to follow progress towards the achievement of the goals and commitments in a timely manner, and to step up coordinated action in case of need. He said that since the Fourth Conference would be the only major conference in 2011 dealing with development issues, it was important to take advantage of that unique opportunity to bring fresh impetus to the global partnership in assisting the least developed countries towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. He stressed the need for a strong political message and the renewal of economic commitments and solidarity of the international community for the least developed countries. He reiterated the utmost importance Turkey attached to the participation of least developed countries, all development partners and the United Nations system in the Fourth Conference at the highest political level.

25. The representative of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** brought the Committee up to date on the efforts of IPU to bring a strong parliamentary contribution to the Conference. He elaborated on three components with respect to the Istanbul Conference, namely a parliamentary forum, a parliamentary message to the Conference and the launch of a new initiative to actively mobilize parliaments in the implementation of the Istanbul programme of action. The following three main objectives of the parliamentary track had been coordinated with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States: to facilitate the contribution of parliaments to the national review, the substantive contribution to the outcome document of the Conference; to encourage the participation of members of parliaments in the United Nations Conference and in national preparations for the event; and to engage parliaments in the implementation of the Istanbul programme of action over the next decade. He stressed the need for parliamentary engagement to help achieve national ownership of the Istanbul programme of action and of development in general. Finally, he invited Member States not to lose track of the role of parliamentarians in the Istanbul programme of action.

26. The representative of the **Civil Society Organization Steering Committee** briefed the Committee on the contribution of civil society organizations to the preparatory process of the Conference. He stated that civil society is strongly devoted to working beneficially with Member States and all partners to ensure that the new programme of action effectively impacts the least developed countries. He shared a collective call to make the Istanbul programme of action a historic programme of action offering a visionary alternative that is people-centred, with emphasis on human rights and human dignity. The Istanbul programme of action should learn from the pillars of past programmes of action and focus on an agenda with clear targets and address such important issues as trade, debt cancellation, regulation of the international financial system and climate change and technology, among others. He stated that the Istanbul programme of action would determine the paradigm of development for the years to come and help to overcome the differences between countries. He noted that the fate of the people living in the least developed countries would depend on the outcome of the Istanbul programme of action to achieve a decent living; hence, it was crucial that the Conference be successful.

27. The representative of the private sector made a brief presentation on the private sector track of the Conference with the key objective of raising global awareness of the role of sustainable private sector development for the least developed countries and increase the engagement of international business in the least developed countries. The private sector track at the Conference would have three themes: namely, productive capacity, entrepreneurship and access to finance and markets. He stated that the private sector track would also hold a High-Level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships that would provide an opportunity for direct engagement of the private sector and high-level government officials to propose action-oriented measures and recommendations. A Global Business Partnership Forum was intended to stimulate widening partnerships for least developed country development and provide a matchmaking platform. In addition, a Trade Fair that would take place from 9 to 13 May 2011 would showcase export and other commercial opportunities in the least developed countries.

28. The representative of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the Group of the Least Developed Countries, noted that considerable progress had been made in the intergovernmental negotiation process towards the Conference and stressed the need for finding convergence in order to make tangible progress towards the common purpose and addressing the multifaceted challenges of the least developed countries. Therefore, it was essential to demonstrate stronger and renewed partnership and solidarity on the part of partners towards addressing structural weakness and multiple vulnerabilities of least developed countries. Cognizant of today's interdependent world, it was in the common interest of the least developed countries and the partners to work closely towards promoting global peace, equity, stability, progress and prosperity; hence, the great interest expressed in the Conference at the national and international levels. He recognized that without addressing the core challenges and vulnerabilities of the least developed countries on a sustainable basis, the economic, social and any other development targets and goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, could not be fully achieved and sustained at the global level. The least developed countries by themselves were not in a position to resolve their structural constraints owing to the limited availability of resources and capacity.

29. The Conference should give strong political direction and strategic guidance to any future course of action by internal processes and bodies. In that regard, there was a need for innovative approaches and mechanisms to reinforce the partnership for development of least developed countries. He emphasized that the Istanbul programme of action should be based on a renewed and enhanced level of partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners and should also put the needs and difficulties of the least developed countries at the forefront and give due regard to their priorities and objectives. That would help to reinforce national leadership and ownership, which is critical for sustainable development. He said that both the process and the substance of the Conference were very important for the least developed countries, and urged all to engage constructively and expeditiously guide intergovernmental negotiations towards a successful outcome of the Istanbul Conference.

General debate

30. The representative of Argentina made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He noted that the success of the new programme of action depended

highly on the ownership and leadership role of the least developed countries in making and implementing effectively the relevant policy choices. It had to be stressed that the review of the Brussels Programme of Action showed that financial support measures were not fully effective or adequate, in specificity, scale, scope and quality. He expressed his concern about the ongoing debate of broadening the meaning of the concept of "development partners". The Group of 77 and China also emphasized the importance of the fulfilment of the international commitment related to financial resources, especially ODA, including development financing and technological cooperation. He also recognized the importance of South-South cooperation as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. He reiterated the strong support to least developed countries within the context of the Istanbul programme of action, which represented a strengthened global partnership aimed at overcoming multiple development challenges and, in supporting them in eradicating poverty and integrating beneficially into the global economy.

31. The representative of **Hungary**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, emphasized its role and full involvement in the ongoing informal negotiations for the preparation of the draft programme of action. She noted the importance of the programme of action as crucial for the Istanbul Conference.

32. The representative of **Indonesia**, speaking on behalf of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**, recognized that not all countries had the same capacity to rise in response to new opportunities. Hence, it was vital to address the imbalance in global capacity. The least developed countries were the most vulnerable countries in the international community and that highlighted the moral and political imperative for supporting in partnership the least developed countries towards their economic and social transformation. The new programme of action should therefore result in a global development compact to reinvigorate partnership, and help least developed countries change their circumstances. In that regard, regional partnership could also serve as a building block to realize a sustained, inclusive and equitable path of global growth and development. In moving forward, it must be kept in mind that the least developed countries themselves were best placed to identify their development needs and priorities and ultimately responsible for their development. He emphasized the need on the part of the international community to create an international environment that was conducive and supportive of the least developed countries' own efforts to enhance their economic dynamism and international competitiveness.

33. The representative of **Canada**, speaking also on behalf of **Australia and New Zealand**, noted the time constraint to finalize the outcome document for the Conference. He shared a proposal for a structured and streamlined approach to goals, objectives and outcomes for the Istanbul programme of action. Canada, Australia and New Zealand remained committed to support the least developed countries through one overarching goal for the programme of action that would focus on overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to reduce poverty, achieve international development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category. Five high-level objectives could contribute to the goal, an objective for each of the five main themes of the document: (a) enhancing economic growth, including productive capacities, agriculture and trade; (b) building human capital through social and human development and gender equality; (c) reducing vulnerabilities of least developed countries and building their resilience; (d) ensuring adequate financial resources for

least developed countries; and (e) enhancing good governance at all levels. The proposal sought to streamline and clarify the current goals and targets as outlined throughout the draft programme of action in order to make them consistent and clear. The proposal was a contribution to the outcome document. In that regard, he emphasized that the Istanbul programme of action should be clear and useful for all.

34. The representative of **Paraguay**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Landlocked Developing Countries**, stressed the need for least developed countries to focus on socio-economic development towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. He emphasized the need for predictable aid towards the development needs of the least developed countries. In that regard, the effects of climate change, especially on the landlocked countries, concerning land degradation, desertification, deforestation and the decline of water supply, as well as the destruction of infrastructure, must be central to the debate. Joint efforts should be made to achieve inclusive and equitable growth with an impact on human development and vulnerable groups. He underlined the crucial moment for the landlocked countries and small island developing countries and the unique opportunity to reach consensus within the Istanbul programme of action on the basis of solidarity and strong political will.

35. The representative of **Maldives** referred to the country's graduation from least developed country status. He highlighted issues concerning the risk of graduation and the need for assistance to support and maintain graduation from least developed country status and facilitate the transition process. In that regard, the concept of smooth transition must be institutionalized in the new programme of action to facilitate graduation for the other least developed countries.

36. The representative of **China** noted that it was the common responsibility of the international community to support the sustainable development of the least developed countries. A forward-looking, strong and coordinated plan of action would provide important assurance for that endeavour. The Government of China was willing to work with other countries to strengthen support for the least developed countries across the board, and push for fruitful results for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the least developed countries. He raised a number of outstanding issues that required consultation on the outcome document. He pointed out the urgency to support the development requests made by the least developed countries on the basis of their own development reality and difficulties, respect their leadership and ownership, and reaffirm and strengthen the firm commitment made to them. Furthermore, he reiterated that all Member States should follow the consensus reached by the relevant General Assembly resolution on "development partners" and South-South cooperation. The outcome document should continue to employ the framework structure of the Brussels Programme of Action. South-South cooperation placed emphasis on capacity-building, respected the views of the participating countries, and sought mutual benefit and "win-win" results through cooperation. Based on the priorities and demands of the host countries, China had supported least developed countries in their effort to achieve economic growth, social progress and sustainable development.

37. The representative of **South Africa** stated that the Istanbul programme of action for the least developed countries could serve as a means to move humanity forward from the state of extreme poverty, with over 53 per cent of people in the least developed countries living in extreme poverty. Therefore, the programme of

action must be ambitious and targeted with a 10-year plan of action for the least developed countries. It must offer added value to those countries, many of which had made enormous strides in committing to good governance, democracy and human rights. There must be assistance for targeted programmes aimed at building productive capacity of least developed countries, ensuring food security and reducing their vulnerability to climate change and economic crises. He emphasized the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in assisting least developed countries in their development. He requested that the least developed countries and partners collectively show a spirit of support and respect to ensure that in 10 years' time the Group of Least Developed Countries would be a much smaller one.

38. The representative of **Lesotho** observed that the Millennium Development Goals were the minimum targets to be attained, which, when reached, would require a sufficiently strong real economy to sustain them and to allow room for further improvement. There was a need for a strong sustained, stable, job-creating growth with equity, which would lead to sound, inclusive and socio-economic development. To achieve that for each of the least developed countries, efforts must be made to compile a package of actions derived from the pre-Conference events and the Istanbul programme of action, for which a resource mobilization strategy should be put in place. He recalled the importance of trade as one of the paths towards economic growth and socio-economic development. In that regard, the Enhanced Integrated Framework was of particular importance for the development of least developed countries.

39. The representative of **Pakistan** noted that the global financial, economic, fuel and food crises had virtually reversed the gains made by the least developed countries in the past decade. Additionally, emerging challenges like climate change were complicating the situation. The least developed countries needed more investment in building productive capacities and enhancing competitiveness. They needed support to increase their capacity to absorb external shocks, to acquire more market access, and to address the issue of hunger and poverty through more investments in agriculture and food security. Furthermore, the mobilization of all available resources for development was required. Finally, he stressed the importance of the private sector and civil society organizations in completing governmental efforts for development. He called for an agreement on a comprehensive programme aimed at bringing about a tangible socio-economic transformation in the least developed countries to better the lives of the 880 million people of the least developed countries.

40. The representative of **Brazil** said that the Preparatory Committee should aim at having an ambitious and comprehensive document for Istanbul. The document should be action-oriented with measurable objectives and should demonstrate the political will by the development partners to assist the least developed countries. He noted the need for a renewed partnership for the least developed countries. The graduation of 50 per cent of the least developed countries is an achievable goal. He pledged the support of Brazil to the Conference.

41. The representative of the **Gambia** said that the different crises that continued to have an impact on the least developed countries should serve as an opportunity for creative solutions to their vulnerabilities. Particular attention needed to be paid to generating decent employment. The least developed countries could not graduate

without attaining infrastructural development to support structural changes for sustainable development. The next programme of action should address the issues of debt forgiveness and cancellation, market access, subsidies and other trade barriers, as well as the issue of agricultural subsidies. He indicated the need for a renewal and scaling-up of the commitments of the international community, a clear strategy towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the Istanbul outcome. He called for the civil society partners to consider themselves as stakeholders in the process and stated that their role would become more critical in the post-Istanbul phase of implementation. He called on all least developed countries to hold themselves accountable for the successful implementation of the programme and to undertake necessary reforms in that regard.

42. The representative of the **United Republic of Tanzania** stressed that, despite the commitment of the Brussels Programme of Action, the achievements remained limited and the challenge now was to renew the hope and to review the source of the failure as the situation had become more complex. He emphasized the need for support to the least developed countries for the new aid architecture. The ownership of those countries and their leading role in the programme of action should promote growth, jobs, peace and good governance. The quantity of donor support must be comprehensive and be determined with the least developed countries themselves. Central to the Istanbul programme of action was the key objective of identifying measures and programmes that would assist countries to graduate from least developed countries status.

43. The representative of the **Republic of Korea** mentioned that with four years to the completion date in 2015 of the Millennium Development Goals, it was important to review the implications for the future in the light of the impact of the global crisis and environmental degradation. It was important to document the global partnership including deliverables targets, and the changing realities to define the future partnership. Global development efforts since the Brussels Programme of Action should examine how to integrate diverse efforts to boost existing programmes and share experiences. He said that the planned conference in Busan, Republic of Korea, would examine aid effectiveness within the context of the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 and the period after that to focus on trade, domestic resources and the role of aid as a catalyst to development.

44. The representative of **UNCTAD** said that the agency had supported research and policy work in trade to identify key challenges confronting the least developed countries. The agency provided technical and analytical support, including the preparation and publication of the *Least Developed Countries Report 2010*, as part of the input to the preparatory events, which would serve as a main contribution to the Istanbul Conference. She stressed the need for consensus to be achieved regarding the objectives of the least developed countries and the new international aid architecture. She noted that economic growth had been significant, but poverty reduction remained slow, with minimum structural change in the economy. In addition, concepts like the developmental state and the need for policy space must be reviewed to forge a common understanding at the Conference.

45. The representative of the **Common Fund for Commodities** highlighted the objectives of the Fund, which included assistance to the least developed countries in the commodities market and support to diversify their products and increase access to financing. He stressed the fact that commodity-dependent countries needed to

secure sustained commitments for international cooperation at the upcoming Conference in order to offset market volatility and other persistent problems. He emphasized the need for initiatives that aim at mitigating the negative effects of instability of commodity prices and earnings from commodity exports, including through price risk management and the establishment of viable safety nets for small producers, and through compensatory finance schemes. He said that the Common Fund for Commodities would jointly organize with UNCTAD a side event on 8 May in Istanbul.

Concluding statements

46. Ambassador **Jarmo Vilnanen** of Finland, Chair of the Preparatory Committee, said that the Preparatory Committee had yet to reach an agreement on the finalization of the Conference documents. He emphasized that for the Istanbul Conference to be successful, the final document must be finalized as soon as possible. He recognized the intensive and constructive consultations that had been undertaken during the meeting, and he expressed his appreciation for the collaborative spirit of all the Member States. He concluded his remarks by proposing an indicative workplan for the completion of the Istanbul programme of action.

47. Ambassador **Gyan Chadra Acharya** of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, commended Member States for their engagement in intensive negotiations concerning the final document for the Conference. While appreciating the role of the partners, he was concerned that the development needs of the least developed countries should remain central to the Conference. For that reason he stressed that the least developed countries' objectives for the Istanbul Conference should be ambitious and take into account the new realities that required new support measures. He proposed that the partners should commit to do more for the least developed countries. In that regard, the issue of definition of the development partners should not overshadow or undermine that ambition, but rather should help to provide a forward-looking and constructive agenda in order not to lose focus on the objectives of the Conference. He noted that the Conference on the Least Developed Countries is not organized often, and hence there was a need to use and maximize the opportunity offered by the Istanbul programme of action to support the development of the least developed countries.

48. The representative of **Hungary**, speaking on behalf of the European Commission, welcomed the progress and achievements to date and commended all actors involved in the proceedings. She said that the Istanbul programme of action should seek to address the vulnerabilities and the impact of financial and economic shocks on the least developed countries in order to facilitate their graduation. She stressed that the final document must be fully negotiated in a constructive manner before the Conference.

49. The representative of **Morocco** highlighted some of the key development challenges facing the least developed countries, such as poverty, environmental degradation, volatility of agricultural prices and rising energy prices. He emphasized the need, in order to remedy the situation, for increased ODA as evidence of solidarity with the least developed countries and recognition of their development challenges, including the shortage of human capital. He called on developed

countries to ensure a smooth transition of the graduating least developed countries. Morocco fully supported the least developed countries in the current negotiations.

50. The representative of the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** explained the role of OECD in sharing experiences and policies for the well-being of the people of the world. He emphasized the importance of the quantity and quality of aid as a means of peacebuilding and State building. He mentioned that OECD was planning several events in Istanbul that would deal with various issues, including aid, improved tax regulations, the mobilization of domestic resources, and the role of multinational corporations in extractive industries. Finally, he mentioned the importance of the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, set to take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2011.

51. **The Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,** Cheick Sidi Diarra, noted that progress had been made in the logistical and substantive preparations of the Conference. The meeting had also provided an opportunity to continue negotiations on the Istanbul outcome document, though more work was expected to be undertaken. He noted that there was the need for additional work to ensure a transformative and meaningful outcome for least developed countries. He was confident that, because of the determination of all the negotiating parties, efforts would be made to bridge their differences and secure an ambitious, focused, action- and results-oriented outcome with concrete deliverables and commitments. He stressed the need to achieve a rapid and development-oriented conclusion of the negotiations before the Conference. He expressed appreciation for the highly able and professional manner in which the Chair had guided the proceedings of the Conference, including the negotiations.

Annex

List of participants

I. States

Albania

Mr. Ferit Hoxha, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, New York

Ms. Admira Jorgji, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

Algeria

Mr. Abderrahman Hamidaoui, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. Gary Quinlan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, New York

Ms. Alison Chartres, Counsellor (Development), Permanent Mission, New York

Mr. Christopher Stokes, Development Adviser, Permanent Mission, New York

Ms. Rachel Jolly, Policy Officer, AusAID

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Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, New York

Mr. Andreas Brandstätter, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

Bangladesh

Mr. Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Secretary (ERD), Ministry of Finance

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Mr. Md. Sufiur Rahman, DG (Economic Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Muhammad Alkama Siddiqui, Deputy Secretary (ERD), Ministry of Finance

Mr. Amitava Chakraparty, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Mr. Khonder M. Talha, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr. Md. Tauhedul Islam, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. Jan Grauls, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, New York

Mr. Thomas Lambert, Deputy Permanent Representative, New York

Mr. Pierre Charlier, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. Jean-Francis R. Zinsou, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, New York

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Mr. Koffi Innocent Lokossou, Director for Sectoral Studies and Programmes

Mr. Jonas Djebou, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. Bozkurt Aran, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the WTO

Mr. Mithat Rende, Ambassador, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ercan Ozer, Ambassador, General Coordinator of Turkey on LDC IV Conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Prof. Dr. Bülent Aras, Chairman, Centre for Strategic Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Ms. Emriye Bagdagul Ormanci, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

Mr. Mustafa Tutkun, Public Relations Adviser of Doctors Worldwide in Istanbul

Mr. Altay Altinors, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, New York

Mr. Ender Saritekin, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization

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Mr. Afelee Falema Pita, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, New York

Mr. Letasi Iulai, Director of Planning

Ms. Lita Pita, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. Yin-tso Lin, Adviser

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Mr. Benedict Lukwiya, Ambassador, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. John Leonard Mugerwa, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, New York

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Mr. Firas Al-Amri, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, New York

Ms. Ahlam Al-Mofihi, Attaché, Permanent Mission, New York

II. Non-member State having received a standing invitation to participate as observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining a permanent observer mission at Headquarters

Holy See

Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer, New York

Msgr. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Counsellor, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

Mr. Philip Bene, Attaché, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

Mr. Douglas Sylva, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Regional Commissions New York Office

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Luciana Mermet

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Ms. Yamina Djacta, Deputy Director, New York

World Food Programme

Ms. Gordana Jerger, Senior Adviser, New York

Ms. Amy Sommers, External Relations Consultant, New York

IV. Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Ms. Lila H. Ratsifandrihamanana, Director, Liaison Office, New York

Ms. Sharon Brennen-Haylock, Senior Liaison Officer, Liaison Office, New York

Ms. Anastasiya Ganeeva, Adviser, Liaison Office, New York

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Ms. Cheryl Morden, Director, IFAD North American Liaison Office, New York

Ms. Xenia von Lilien-Waldau, Liaison and Public Information Officer, New York

International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Gary Fowlie, Head, ITU Liaison Office to the United Nations, New York

Ms. Maritza Delgado, Programme Officer, LSE, Telecommunication Development Bureau

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Ms. Elina Palm, UNISDR Liaison Officer

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Mrs. Anda Filip, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, New York

Mr. Alessandro Motter, Senior Adviser, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr. Philippe Kridelka, Director, New York

Ms. Michelle Freeouf, Programme Assistant, New York

World Intellectual Property Organization

Mr. Kiflé Shenkoru, Director, Division for Least Developed Countries

Mr. S. Rama Rao, Officer-in-Charge, WIPO Coordination Office, New York

World Meteorological Organization

Mr. Kaliba Konare, Director, LDCs and Regional Coordination, Geneva

Mr. Batjargal Zamba, Liaison Office, New York

World Tourism Organization

Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Senior Counsellor, New York

V. Intergovernmental organizations

Common Fund for Commodities

Mr. Ali Mchumo, Managing Director

Mr. Andrey Kuleshov, Senior Project Manager

European Union

Mr. Pedro Serrano, Ambassador, Acting Head of Delegation

Mr. Peter Schwaiger, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Delegation

Mr. Americo Beviglia Zampetti

Ms. Andra Koke

Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano

Mr. Timo Wilkki

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Mr. Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer, New York

Ms. Wanda Grimaldi, Adviser, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

Ms. Giula Giannuzzi, Researcher, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

Mr. Vittorio Calabrese, Researcher, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

International Organization for Migration

Mrs. Michele Klein Solomon, Permanent Observer

Ms. Anke Strauss, Liaison Officer

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Mr. Moussa Makan Camara, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, New York

Mr. Etienne Alingue, Director for Sustainable Development, OIF, Paris

Mr. Roland Adjo-Lessing, First Counsellor, Permanent Observer Mission, New York

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Mrs. Ebba Dolhman, Senior Adviser for Policy Coherence for Development, Office of the Secretary-General of OECD, Paris

Mr. Jan Rielander, Economist, OECD Development Centre, Paris

Partners in Population and Development

Mr. Sethuramiah Rao, Permanent Observer, New York

VI. Inter-agency/joint programmes

Enhanced Integrated Framework

Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the World Trade Organization and other international organizations in Switzerland, Chairman of the EIF Board, Geneva

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

Ms. Robynne Anderson, Main Representative to the United Nations